

iCube INNOVATION CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

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Liew (standing centre, wearing a lanyard), iCube staff, entrepreneurs and guests.

KUCHING: iCube Innovation – Sarawak’s leading incubation centre for young entrepreneurs – celebrated its first anniversary on Wednesday with continued enthusiasm to unearth new entrepreneurs and to promote entrepreneurship among the younger generation.

Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre (MaGIC) Social Entrepreneurship executive director Ehon Chan, Peatix Asia general manager Yeap Mei Yi and Google Business Group (GBG) global community manager Marcus Foon were among those present.

Since iCube’s launch on Aug 10 last year by Head of State Tun Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, links between MaGIC and iCube have strengthened thanks to several collaborations. The innovation centre is MaGIC’s first partner from outside Cyberjaya.

The centre has strong links with several other organisations including Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC), Tabung Ekonomi Gagasan Bumiputera Sarawak

(Tegas), Sarawak Entrepreneur Association (SEA), Sarawak Children's Cancer Society (SCCS), OurYouth.my, Technology College Sarawak (TCS), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas), FAME International College and Aiesec Kuching.

Despite these collaborations, iCube's founder and chairman Datuk Patrick Liew said he was not one to rest on his laurels as he wanted to see iCube work on more collaborations.

He said he wanted his team – the startups and small high growth enterprises who call the co-working space home – to focus on achieving greater success.

“We want you to succeed. We want you to solve problems. And more importantly, we want to create the next millionaire from iCube,” he said.

Liew said iCube will continue to work hard in unearthing new entrepreneurs by organising Startup Weekend events throughout the year. To date, they have held two successful editions in Kuching.

Startup Weekend is an event that helps participants in teams to focus on an idea and turn it into reality, with local entrepreneurs as mentors.

MaGIC's Chan said iCube's current success was largely thanks to Liew as the latter's vision and passion to establish the culture of entrepreneurship in his home town drove the project from concept to reality.

Executive College's Head of Department (Business) Valerie Leong and Technology College Sarawak's head of student enrichment May Lee expressed enthusiasm about the impact iCube has had on the community.

Both agreed that in just one year, the centre had enriched the local entrepreneurial culture, helped to build and expand the startup community and left a positive impact on students in general.

Meanwhile, Yeap from Peatix Asia and Foon from GBG were here for two GBG Kuching events held at iCube as part of the 'Growth Hacking' workshop series.

GBG is a non-profit community of business professionals run by volunteers that aims to share knowledge for business success and is based in iCube. Yeap spoke on how to use the Peatix platform to grow communities through events while Foon spoke about how entrepreneurs could leverage Google tools for success.

The next Startup Weekends will be held in Miri (Aug 26-28) and Sibul (Oct 21-23) – the first time the event has been organised in both places.

For more details about the Startup Weekend events in Miri and Sibul, visit www.icubeinnovation.com.my or contact them at admin@icubeinnovation.com.my or 082-266868.

